

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 13, 2003**

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:15 p.m.

In Attendance:

J. DiPrete, P. Guida, G. Grove, M. Mancieri, J. Gaines, F. Caprio, C. Callahan.

Chairman DiPrete asked that the order of the agenda be changed to accommodate those members of the board that had to leave early. There were no objections.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Minutes of the October 23, 2003 meeting as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

Approval of Changes to Certification - Elimination of PLT K-6 Test for Elementary Educators and Adoption of the Two Content Knowledge Tests for Teachers of Students with Severe Profound Disabilities.

RIDE staff member David Roy explained that when this agenda item came to the Regents for approval in March, the Regents did not set a date certain for the elimination of the PLT K-6 test for elementary teachers. At that time, Board members were concerned about recent college graduates who had already taken the PLT and college seniors who took or who were registered to take the PLT. The Board agreed to explore possible alternatives to see if something could be done to accommodate this group of individuals. Department staff is now recommending that through December 31, 2003, individuals who took and passed the PLT K-6 to take and pass only the elementary content Knowledge Test to meet the

definition of a "highly qualified" teacher and be certified in the designated area of certification. Additionally, staff explained that the NCLB is requiring that special educators must also meet the definition of a "highly qualified" teacher. Therefore staff is asking that the Board approve the addition of the certificate "Special Educator: Severe Profound Disabilities" be added to the list of designated certificates, as adopted by the board in March 2003.

Members of the board expressed their concerns about how this new requirement will affect special education teachers and the issue of aligning the "highly qualified" teacher with Rhode Island's current certification requirements. The group also discussed the dilemma for special education teachers - to be highly qualified under the current regulations, they will need to have a major in a content area.

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MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Adopt the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge Test (0014) and the Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises Test (0012) as a Requirement for the Issuance of the Following Teaching Certificate in Rhode Island:

- **Special Educator: Severe Profound Disabilities; and**

It is Further Approved That: The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education allow individuals who took and passed the Principles of Learning & Teaching Test K-6 prior to December 31, 2003 to Take and Pass Only the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge Test (0014) for the Issuance of the Designated Teaching Certificate; and

Finally, it is Approved That: The Board of Regents for Elementary & Secondary Education Eliminate, Effective January 1, 2004, the Principles of Learning Test K-6 as the Recognized Test for the Issuance of the Designated Certificates.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Approval of Changes to Certification – Consolidation of Types of Teaching Certificates

JoEva Gaines, the Chairman of the School Administrator and Teacher Quality and Support sub-committee told members that the group had met earlier in the day and were recommending, consistent with NCLB, that 11 of Rhode Island's certificates be combined into five, as follows: Provisional, Five-year Professional, Life Professional, Emergency, and Substitute. The following would be eliminated: Extended Provisional, Two-year Special Provisional, Special Provisional, Temporary Provisional, Extended Emergency, and Emergency Substitute.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Eliminate, as of January 1, 2004, the Following Types of Rhode Island Teaching Certificates:

- **Extended Provisional**
- **Two-Year Special Provisional**
- **Special Provisional**
- **Temporary Provisional**
- **Extended Emergency**
- **Emergency Substitute**

VOTE: Approved Unanimously.

Committee Reports

PS&I Update – The Commissioner reported that the announcement of the school and district categorizations have been released and meetings between the department and the districts and schools (as described on pages 24 through 29 of Board of Regents Enclosure 1b.) have been scheduled. Some of the discussion topics will include the length of the instructional day, professional development time (in concentrated areas); and teacher assignments (i.e. matching best teachers with those students needing the most help.)

The Commissioner told the group that Providence and Central Falls are in their

4th year of intervention; East Providence, Pawtucket, West Warwick, and Woonsocket are in year 3; and Bristol-Warren, Johnston, Coventry & Lincoln are on the “watch” list because of the desegregation scores. The Commissioner went on to say that the ongoing state and national conversations around NCLB is creating the right tensions supporting the All Kids agenda.

Budget Update

There was no budget update, however Commissioner McWalters talked about the “White Papers” and updated the group on budget meetings with the Governor.

Chairman Remarks

Chairman DiPrete reported that the Regents Commissioner Evaluation Committee will be meeting within the next couple of weeks to begin work on the Commissioner’s evaluation for this year. Regent Gaines will chair the committee with Regent Mancieri and Chairman DiPrete as committee members.

Workshop

RIDE staff member, Regents fellow, Michael Barnes reviewed the preliminary guidance document for “The Regulations of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Regarding Public High Schools and Ensuring Literacy for Students Entering High Schools”, as attached. He focused on section 4 – the Literacy Guidance piece, especially the framework for the secondary literacy piece. Regents Mancieri and Gaines expressed concerns that the document is not explicit enough, i.e. that it leaves it up to the district too much on how the regulations will be carried out. After an extended discussion, it was the

consensus of the group that the document should include information about

what “good” literacy programs should look like.

The group also discussed how the department would support Providence to ensure that the regs are carried out.

(Regent Grove left at 5:35 p.m.)

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Additional issues that were discussed include a discussion about “English”

classes vs. Language Arts Programs; disparities between those high schools

that have been addressing how they plan to come in to compliance with the

regs versus those districts that have not even begun to discuss the regs.; and

graduation requirements, i.e., proficiency based versus Carnegie units.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjourn

With Unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.